

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0038] to read as follows:

--FIG. 22(a) illustrates the preferred embodiment of FIG. 1, with an evanescent coupling layer of linearly varying thickness, also ~~with FIGs. 22(b) and (c)~~ illustrating the profiles of the input and output beam amplitudes as a function of z, as well as ~~and FIG. 22(d) illustrated the overlap of the input and output beam amplitudes FIGs. 22(b) and (c).~~

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